

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE- SRI LANKA DRAFT DECISION
ON UNCTAD (A/C.5/31/L.37)

1. MISOFF INQUIRED WITH UN BUDGET DIRECTOR PIERRE LAVAU ABOUT SECRETARIAT REACTION TO REF DRAFT DECISION (DATAFAXED TO IO-WEINER) WHICH WAS INTRODUCED DECEMBER 15 AND IS TO BE VOTED ON AT AFTERNOON MEETING DECEMBER 17. LAVAU SAID WHILE HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT PARAS ONE AND TWO ON THE QUESTION OF FLEXIBILITY IN USE OF UNCTAD RESOURCES, PARA THREE ON LIMITED ACCESS MEETINGS WAS ANOTHER MATTER; HOWEVER, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES CHAIRMAN THOMAS (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE SRI LANKA TO WITHDRAW PARA THREE AND PAVE THE WAY FOR FIFTH COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE OF ACABQ SUGGESTION THAT ISSUE BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES.

2. REGARDING PARA ONE, LAVAU SAID HE BELIEVED WHAT SRI LANKA (READ UNCTAD) WAS SEEKING WAS FLEXIBILITY FOR RECRUITING ASSISTANCE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, WHICH WAS SOMEWHAT PERPLEXING SINCE THEY HAVE THIS FLEXIBILITY ALREADY. MISOFF TOLD LAVAU OF OUR APPREHENSION THAT THIS MIGHT REPRESENT UNCTAD BID FOR BROAD BUDGETARY AUTOONOMY; LAVAU SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THIS WAS

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NOT THE CASE, BASED ON MANY CONVERSATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS WITH UNCTAD OFFICIALS.

3. PARA TWO, LAVAU THOUGHT, IS SIMPLY A WAY OF URGING THE SECRETARIAT TO COME BACK NEXT YEAR WITH RENEWED REQUEST FOR

STRENGTHENING UNCTAD SYG'S OFFICE, PARTICULARLY BY ADDING AN ASYG,
AND TO DOCUMENT IT BETTER THIS TIME SO THAT ACABQ WILL NOT
TURN IT DOWN AGAIN.

4. LAVAU AGREED THAT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL WAS POORLY DRAFTED AND
AMBIGUOUS AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WELL FOR DELEGATIONS TO FORCE
SRI LANKA TO EXPLAIN ITS INTENT PRECISELY BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION
ON IT.
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